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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia
SUBJECT Unbalanced Labor Supply
in Industry

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The following is a summary of an unclassified report on labor supply prepared by the Czechoslovak Ministry of Social Welfare.

1. The forced transfer of government white collar workers and students to manual labor jobs in key industries and the improvement of living and working conditions in these industries are planned by the Czech government to alleviate the unbalanced labor situation which is hampering the Five-Year Plan.
2. The most critical labor shortage exists in the Ostrava (P50/O 59) region, where mines, metallurgical works, and construction projects make a constant demand on the labor supply, inspite of the fact that women are being employed in these industries with good effect. Housing is another major problem in this region; plans are being pushed to modernize existing facilities and to construct others. Similar problems exist in the Usti nad Labem area (N51/F 44) and in the regions of Chomutov (N51/F 02) and Most (N51/F 13).
3. Distributing the available supply of labor is the main problem, for although there is now a total labor surplus, industries which need laborers do not get them. Although 149,000 workers were made available by government action, e.g., 6,000 university students transferred to industry and 5,000 typographic employees taken off their jobs because of the paper shortage, less than 115,000 will be needed to bring the industries up to their needs. To get workers to areas where they are needed, the government intends to place them in labor brigades for specified terms and then send these brigades to industries which require them.
4. To help alleviate the situation in the ceramics industry, which has been severely hit by the labor shortage, and in which working conditions are bad, the government had sent 3,000 convicts to work there. Recently, however, these men were transferred to the Jachymov (N51/K 60) uranium mines, so that the situation in ceramics is still bad.

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-2-

25X1A

5. In the building industry the shortage is most acute in Ostrava, where heavy industrial construction is going on and more is planned. The metallurgical industry at Chomutov, Ostrava, and Kladno (NSI/L 59) has exhausted its local labor supply and there are no housing facilities for workers who could be brought in from the surplus labor supply.

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